WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of manufacturing a vehicle suspension system, the method comprising the steps of:

welding an axle connector to an axle, without first pressing the axle connector onto the axle from an end of the axle, and without using a clamp to hold the axle connector in contact with the axle; and

welding the axle connector to a pivot arm.

2. The method according to Claim 1, wherein in the step of welding the axle connector to the axle, the axle connector is held in contact with the axle by elastically deforming the axle connector.

3. The method according to Claim 2, wherein the elastically deforming step further comprises enlarging an inner dimension of the axle connector, so that the axle connector inner dimension is larger than an outer dimension of the axle at a location in which the axle connector is held in contact with the axle during the step of welding the axle connector to the axle.

4. The method according to Claim 1, wherein in the step of welding the axle connector to the axle, no clearance exists between the axle connector and the axle.

5. The method according to Claim 1, wherein in the step of welding the axle connector to the axle, the axle connector is a single structure which extends greater than halfway about the axle.

6. The method according to Claim 1, wherein in the step of welding the axle connector to the axle, the axle has a cylindrical outer surface, the axle connector is a single structure, and the axle connector extends greater than 180° about the axle outer surface.

7. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of welding the axle connector to the pivot arm is performed after the step of welding the axle connector to the axle.

8. A method of manufacturing a vehicle suspension system, the method comprising the step of:

attaching an axle connector to an axle by elastically deforming the axle connector, the axle connector extending less than completely about the axle when the axle connector is attached to the axle.

9. The method according to Claim 8, further comprising the steps of welding the axle connector to the axle, and welding the axle connector to a pivot arm.

10. The method according to Claim 9, wherein the axle connector is welded to the axle prior to the step of welding the axle connector to the pivot arm.

11. The method according to Claim 8, wherein in the attaching step, the axle connector extends greater than halfway about the axle.

12. The method according to Claim 8, wherein in the attaching step, the axle has a cylindrical outer surface, and the axle connector extends greater than 180° about the axle outer surface.

13. The method according to Claim 8, wherein in the attaching step, no separate clamp is used to hold the axle connector in contact with the axle.

14. The method according to Claim 8, wherein the attaching step is performed without pressing the axle connector axially onto an end of the axle.

15. The method according to Claim 8, wherein in the attaching step, no clearance exists between the axle connector and the axle when the axle connector is attached to the axle.